

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for providing an access candidate access to secured electronic data, the method~~ comprising:

receiving, using a processing device, a first request, from a first sponsor of an access candidate, for access candidate access to [[the]] a first security level in a computer network, wherein the first security level ~~secured~~ secures computational resources for accessing electronic data; by a controller associated with the secured electronic data;

granting, using the processing device, access to the first security level based on an evaluation of the first request;

receiving, using the processing device, a second request, from a second sponsor of the access candidate, for access to a second security level in the computer network in response to the granting of access to the first security level, wherein the second security level secures the electronic data;

comparing, at the controller, one or more attributes of the access candidate with one or more access requirements associated with the secured electronic data;

determining, using the processing device, whether attributes of the access candidate satisfy access requirements of the electronic data secured by the second security level;

submitting, by the controller using the processing device, a third request for authorization to a resolution authority, which is configured to modify the one or more access requirements, in response to a comparison that indicates determination indicating that access by the access candidate to the second security level is prohibited, wherein the resolution authority modifies the access requirements; and

in response to obtaining the authorization from the resolution authority, granting the access candidate the access candidate access to the secured electronic data second security level. if the resolution authority provides authorization for such access.

2. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as in~~ of Claim 1, further comprising granting ~~the access candidate~~ access to the ~~secured electronic data~~ second security level in response to determining that the attributes of the access candidate satisfy the access requirements of the electronic data. ~~a comparison that indicates that access by the access candidate is not prohibited.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as in~~ of Claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, further comprising denying ~~the access candidate~~ access to the ~~secured electronic data~~ second security level if the resolution authority denies ~~authorization.~~ the third request.

4. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as in~~ of Claim 1, wherein the ~~one or more~~ access requirements ~~associated with the secured electronic data~~ are represented as part of a graphical display associated with the access candidate and accessed for display to ~~[[the]]~~ a controller via a network.

5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as in~~ of Claim 1, wherein the ~~one or more~~ access requirements ~~associated with the secured electronic data~~ are related to at least one ~~of~~ comprise a citizenship status of the access candidate or a current location of the access candidate.

6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as in~~ of Claim 5, wherein the ~~one or more~~ attributes of the access candidate ~~relates to the at least one of a~~ comprise a citizenship status of the access candidate or a current location of the access candidate.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~In a data security system having a first security level securing one or more resources for manipulating electronic data and a second security level securing access to the electronic data by the one or more resources, a method for providing an access candidate access to the electronic data, the~~ A method comprising:

receiving, using a processing device, a first request, from a first sponsor of an access candidate, for physical access to [[the]] a computer network; first security level;

granting, using the processing device, physical access to the computer network based on an evaluation of the first request;

receiving, using the processing device, a second request, from a second sponsor of the access candidate, for access to electronic data in the computer network in response to the granting of physical access to the computer network;

~~granting the access candidate access to the first security level in response to a comparison of one or more attributes of the access candidate with one or more access requirements associated with the first security level that indicates that access to the first security level by the access candidate is not prohibited;~~

~~receiving a request for access to the second security level;~~

determining, using the processing device, whether attributes of the access candidate satisfy access requirements of the electronic data;

~~submitting, using the processing device, a third request for authorization to a resolution authority, which is configured to modify one or more access requirements associated with the second security level, in response to a comparison of one or more attributes of the access candidate with the one or more access requirements associated with the second security level that indicates determination indicating that access to the second security level by the access candidate electronic data is prohibited, wherein the resolution authority modifies the access requirements; and~~

in response to obtaining the authorization from the resolution authority, granting the access candidate access to the second security level electronic data, if the resolution authority provides authorization.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as in of Claim 7, further comprising:

comparing the attributes of the access candidate with the access requirements of the electronic data to determine if access to the electronic data is prohibited; and

~~granting the access candidate access to the second security level electronic data in response to if the comparison of the one or more attributes of the access candidate with the one or more access requirements associated with the second security level that indicates that access to the second security level by the access candidate electronic data is not prohibited.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as in~~ of Claim 7, further comprising denying ~~the access candidate~~ access to the ~~second security level~~ electronic data if the resolution authority denies ~~authorization~~. the third request.

10. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as in~~ of Claim 7, wherein ~~the one or more attributes of the~~ attributes of the access candidate access candidate are represented as part of a graphical display associated with the access candidate and accessed for display via a network.

11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as in~~ of Claim 7, wherein the ~~one or more~~ access requirements ~~associated with the first security level relates to at least one of:~~ of the electronic data comprise a valid data access agreement with the access candidate; a current location of the access candidate; or~~[[,]]~~ a citizenship status of the access candidate.

12. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as in~~ of Claim 11, wherein the ~~one or more~~ attributes of the access candidate ~~relates to at least one of:~~ comprise ~~[[the]]~~ an existence of a data access agreement; a current location of the access candidate; or~~[[,]]~~ a citizenship status of the access candidate.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as in Claim 7, wherein the ~~one or more~~ access requirements ~~associated with the second security level relates to at least one of~~ the electronic data comprise a current location of the access candidate or a citizenship status of the access candidate.

14. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as in~~ of Claim 7, wherein at least one of the request for physical access ~~to the first security level~~ or the request for access to the electronic data ~~second security level~~ is submitted by ~~one or more sponsors~~. more than one sponsor of the access candidate.

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15. (Currently Amended) ~~In a data security system having a first security level securing one or more resources for manipulating electronic data and a second security level securing the electronic data, a method for providing an access candidate access to the electronic data, the~~ A method comprising:

identifying, using a processing device, a plurality of data subsets of [[the]] electronic data, wherein respective data subsets correspond to respective sets of access requirements;

determining, for each data subset using the processing device, at least one data class associated with the respective data subset subsets, the at least one data class identifying at least a citizenship requirement and a location requirement for access to data associated with the at least one data class;

receiving, using the processing device, a first request, from a first sponsor of [[the]] an access candidate, a request for access to [[the]] a first security level in a computer network, wherein the first security level secures physical access to a computer workstation for accessing the electronic data, the first request including access attributes of the access candidate comprising an indication of a citizenship status of the access candidate, an indication of a current location of the access candidate, and an indication of an existence of a data access agreement with the access candidate;

granting, using the processing device, the access candidate access to the first security level based at least in part on an evaluation of the first request; for access to the first level;

receiving, using the processing device, a second request, from a second sponsor of the access candidate, a request for access to a second security level in the computer network in response to the granting of access to the first security level, wherein the second security level secures access to at least one of the plurality of data subset subsets; at the second security level in response to an indication that access to the first security level has been granted, the request for access to the at least one data subset including an indication of a citizenship status of the access candidate and an indication of a current location of the access candidate;

determining, using the processing device, whether the attributes of the access candidate satisfy the respective set of access requirements corresponding to the at least one of the plurality of data subsets;

submitting, using the processing device, a third request for authorization to a resolution authority, which is configured to modify access requirements associated with the at least one data class, in response to a comparison of the citizenship status and the current location of the access candidate with the respective citizenship requirement and location requirement of the at least one data class of the requested data subset that indicates determination indicating that access to a requested data subset at the second level by the access candidate the at least one of the plurality of data subsets is prohibited, wherein the resolution authority modifies the access requirements; and

in response to obtaining the authorization from the resolution authority, granting the access candidate access to the requested at least one data subset at the second security level if the resolution authority grants the third request, provides authorization upon receipt of the request for authorization.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for ~~providing an access candidate access to secured electronic data, the system~~ comprising:

~~storage configured to receive and store the~~ means for receiving and storing electronic data using a computer network;

~~one or more resources configured to access and manipulate the electronic data;~~

~~means for evaluating a first request for access candidate access to [[the]] one or more resources[[,]]~~ in the computer network, wherein the resources secure the electronic data, and wherein [[the]] an evaluation of the first request includes a first comparison of one or more attributes of the access candidate with one or more access requirements associated with the ~~one or more resources~~ electronic data;

~~means for granting the access candidate access to the one or more resources if the first comparison indicates that access is not prohibited;~~

~~means for evaluating a second request for access candidate access to the electronic data by the one or more resources, wherein [[the]] an evaluation of the second~~

request includes a second comparison of one or more attributes of the access candidate with one or more access requirements associated with the electronic data;

means for submitting a third request for authorization, based on the evaluation of the second request indicating that access to the electronic data is prohibited, to a resolution authority, ~~which is configured to modify wherein the resolution authority modifies~~ the one or more access requirements; ~~and, if the second comparison indicates that access to the electronic data by the access candidate is prohibited; and~~

means for granting, in response to obtaining the authorization from the resolution authority, the access candidate access to the electronic data using the one or more resources based on a grant, by the resolution authority, of the third request. ~~if the resolution authority provides authorization.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The system ~~as in~~ of Claim 16, further comprising means for granting ~~the access candidate~~ access to the electronic data using ~~[[the]]~~ one or more resources configured to access and manipulate the electronic data if the second comparison indicates that access to the electronic data ~~by the access candidate~~ is not prohibited.

18. (Currently Amended) The system ~~as in~~ of Claim 16, wherein the access candidate is denied access to the electronic data if the resolution authority denies authorization.

19. (Currently Amended) The system ~~as in~~ of Claim 16, wherein the ~~one or more attributes of the~~ access candidate ~~attributes~~ are represented as part of a graphical display associated with the access candidate and accessed for display via a network.

20. (Currently Amended) The system ~~as in~~ of Claim 16, wherein the one or more access requirements ~~associated with the one or more resources~~ relates to at least one of: a valid data access agreement with a potential access candidate; a current location of the potential access candidate; or~~[[,]]~~ a citizenship status of the potential access candidate.

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21. (Currently Amended) The system ~~as in~~ of Claim 20, wherein the ~~one or more attributes of the access candidate attributes relates~~ relate to at least one of: an indication an existence of a data access agreement with the access candidate; a current location of the access candidate; or~~[[,]]~~ a citizenship status of the access candidate.

22. (Currently Amended) The system ~~as in~~ of Claim 16, wherein the one or more access requirements associated with the electronic data includes at least one of a current location of the access candidate or a citizenship status of the access candidate.

23. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for providing an access candidate access to secured electronic data, the electronic data being associated with one or more data classes, each data class identifying at least a citizenship requirement and a location requirement for access to data associated with the data class, the system comprising:~~

storage configured to receive and store ~~[[the]]~~ electronic data using a computer network;

one or more resources configured to process and manipulate the electronic data using a computer network;

a resource access controller configured to grant access to ~~[[the]]~~ one or more resources, in response to a request for access to the one or more resources, based at least in part on a comparison of a citizenship status and a current location of ~~[[the]]~~ an access candidate and an existence of a data access agreement with a citizenship requirement, wherein the location requirement and the data access agreement requirement are associated with the one or more resources;

one or more data access controllers configured to grant access to a corresponding portion of the electronic data based at least in part on a comparison of the citizenship status and the current location of the access candidate with the citizenship requirement and the location requirement associated with the one or more data classes of the corresponding portion of the electronic data;

one or more resolution authorities, ~~which are~~ configured to:

modify access requirements associated with the one or more data classes, ~~configured to~~ and

authorize access to one or more portions of the electronic data in response to a comparison performed by a corresponding data access controller indicating that ~~indicates~~ access is prohibited; and

a data access module configured to:

evaluate a request for access to one or more portions of the electronic data ~~[[by]]~~ using the one or more resources, ~~[[to]]~~

identify one or more data access controllers corresponding to the one or more portions of the electronic data, ~~[[;]]~~ and

forward the request for access to the one or more identified data access controllers for evaluation ~~as to~~ regarding whether to grant ~~the access candidate~~ access to the corresponding one or more portions of the electronic data.

24. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for determining an access candidate access to secured electronic data, the method~~ comprising:

receiving, ~~[[by]]~~ using a controller in a computer network associated with ~~[[the]]~~ secured electronic data, a request for access to ~~[[the]]~~ secured electronic data in the computer network;

comparing, ~~[[at]]~~ using the controller, one or more attributes of ~~[[the]]~~ an access candidate with one or more access requirements associated with the secured electronic data;

submitting, ~~[[by]]~~ using the controller and based on a comparison indicating that access by the access candidate is prohibited, a request for authorization to a resolution authority, ~~which is configured to modify wherein the resolution authority modifies~~ the one or more access requirements; ~~in response to a comparison that indicates that access by the access candidate is prohibited; and~~

granting or denying in whole or in part, ~~[[by]]~~ using the controller, ~~in whole or in part, the access candidate~~ access to the secured electronic data based, at least in part, on a determination by the resolution authority regarding whether to authorize access ~~of the access candidate~~ to the secured electronic data, wherein the determination by the resolution authority is based on access candidate information and request related information.

25. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as in~~ of Claim 24, further comprising granting ~~the access candidate~~ access to the secured electronic data in response to a comparison ~~that indicates~~ indicating that access by the access candidate is not prohibited.

26. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as in~~ of Claim 24, wherein the one or more access requirements associated with the secured electronic data are represented as part of a graphical display associated with the access candidate and accessed for display to the controller via a network.

27. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as in~~ of Claim 24, wherein the one or more access requirements associated with the secured electronic data are related to at least one of a citizenship status or a current location of the access candidate.

28. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as in~~ Claim 27, wherein the one or more attributes of the access candidate includes at least one of a citizenship status or a current location of the access candidate.

29. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for determining an access candidate access to secured electronic data, the method~~ comprising:

receiving, [[by]] using a controller in a computer network associated with [[the]] secured electronic data in the computer network, a request for access to the secured electronic data in the computer network;

comparing, [[at]] using the controller, one or more attributes of [[the]] an access candidate with one or more access requirements associated with the secured electronic data;

granting, using the controller, the access candidate access to the secured electronic data in response to a comparison ~~that indicates~~ indicating that access by the access candidate is not prohibited; [[and]]

submitting, [[by]] using the controller and in response to a comparison indicating that access by the access candidate is prohibited, a request for authorization to a

resolution authority, ~~which is configured to modify wherein the resolution authority modifies~~ the one or more access requirements; ~~and, in response to a comparison that indicates that access by the access candidate is prohibited; and~~

granting or denying in whole or in part, [[by]] using the controller, ~~in whole or in part, the access candidate~~ access to the secured electronic data based, at least in part, on a determination by the resolution authority regarding whether to authorize access ~~of the access candidate~~ to the secured electronic data, wherein the determination by the resolution authority is based on access candidate information and request related information.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~In a data security system having a first security level securing one or more resources for manipulating electronic data and a second security level securing access to the electronic data by the one or more resources, a method for determining an access candidate access to the electronic data, the method~~ An article of manufacture including a computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, execution of which causes a processing device to perform operations comprising:

receiving, using a processing device, a request for access to [[the]] a first security level in a computer network;

granting, using the processing device, the access candidate access to the first security level based on a comparison of one or more attributes of ~~[[the]]~~ an access candidate with one or more access requirements associated with the first security level;

receiving, using the processing device, a request for access to [[the]] a second security level in the computer network; and

submitting, using the processing device and in response to a comparison indicating that access by the access candidate is prohibited, a request for authorization to a resolution authority, which is configured to modify wherein the resolution authority modifies one or more access requirements associated with the second security level, ~~in response to a comparison of one or more attributes of the access candidate with the one or more access requirements associated with the second security level that indicates that access to the second security level by the access candidate is prohibited and to determine whether to authorize the access candidate access to the second security level.~~

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~method as in~~ article of manufacture of Claim 30, further comprising granting ~~the access candidate~~ access to the second security level in response to a comparison of the one or more attributes of the access candidate with the one or more access requirements associated with the second security level ~~that indicates~~ indicating that access to the second security level by the access candidate is not prohibited.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~method as in~~ article of manufacture of Claim 30, further comprising ~~the step of denying the access candidate~~ access to the second security level if the resolution authority denies authorization.

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~method as in~~ article of manufacture of Claim 30, wherein the one or more attributes of the access candidate is represented as part of a graphical display associated with the access candidate and accessed for display via a network.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~method as in~~ article of manufacture of Claim 30, wherein the one or more access requirements associated with the first security level relates to at least one of: a valid data access agreement with the access candidate; a current location of the access candidate; or a citizenship status of the access candidate.

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~method as in~~ article of manufacture of Claim 34, wherein the one or more attributes of the access candidate relates to at least one of: an indication of whether the access candidate has a data access agreement; a current location of the access candidate; or ~~or~~ a citizenship status of the access candidate.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~method as in~~ article of manufacture of Claim 30, wherein the one or more access requirements associated with the second security level relates to at least one of a current location of the access candidate or a citizenship status of the access candidate.

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~method as in~~ article of manufacture of Claim 30, wherein at least one of the request for access to the first security level or the request for access to the second security level is submitted by one or more sponsors.

38. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1, further comprising ~~determining the authorization, by the resolution authority, by~~ granting a waiver of the ~~one or more~~ access requirements, ~~associated with the secured electronic data.~~

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving supplemental evidence verifying the ~~attributes of the~~ attributes of the access candidate.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the data subsets are separated into the at least one data class based on a data provider of the data.

43. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the physical access comprises physical access to a facility housing the computer workstation.

44. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the physical access comprises logging on to the computer workstation.